

eyes
and
ears of

Walt Disney World®

VOL. 6, NO. 2

PREPARED BY AND FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF WALT DISNEY WORLD

JANUARY 8, 1976

1975... IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR



In March the Village opened in the growing host community of Lake Buena Vista. It has been so successful that 1976 will see the beginning of Phase II of the complex.



January saw the dedication of the new Tomorrowland and the spectacular Space Mountain . . . as well as the WEDway PeopleMover, Carousel of Progress, StarJets, Mission to Mars and the new Bicentennial "America the Beautiful."



In June, America On Parade rolled down Main Street commencing our 15-month Bicentennial celebration.

Walt Disney World Showcase



We released a major announcement to the public about our plans for EPCOT and the World Showcase . . . followed by special presentations to foreign ambassadors from around the world.



The Southern Governors' Conference drew key government officials including special speaking, Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger.



WDP announced that feasibility studies were in progress for the development of a destination resort at Independence Lake in California.



SKI TRIP STILL OPEN

As of this writing, Cast Activities still has a few seats left on the Snow Ski Club's trip to Beech Mountain, N.C. In case you missed last week's article, here are the details:

The trip will depart Orlando at **6 pm on Friday, January 23**, and return around **7 am on Monday, January 26**. During that time, the 76 skiers going will get in two-days on the slopes at Beech Mountain and spend one night in a beautiful mountain-top chalet hotel. The cost? Only \$75.25 per person . . . and that includes round-trip transportation, lodging, ski rental equipment and slope passes for two days. In fact, just about everything except food!

If you are interested in going, then call Cast Activities immediately for more details . . . the trip is almost full, so hurry. And . . . THINK SNOW!

DEADLINE FOR "WORLDWIDE CAMPOUT" EXTENDED TO JANUARY 16

The Worldwide Campout planned by the Sportsman's Association **exclusively** for cast members and their families has extended the registration deadline to January 16. The campout will be **Friday and Saturday nights, January 23 and 24** at the **Camptown Resort Campground** (Highway 15 between Orlando and St. Cloud).

For a special price of \$5 per night, you can experience an old-fashioned hayride, a covered dish Saturday night supper, a marshmallow roast, and during the day, enjoy boating, golf, and swimming. Plan for a fun-filled weekend -- register in Cast Activities today!!

NOTE: Maitland camper rentals is offering Cast members a 10% discount on campers, trailers. Contact Cast Activities for more information.

MARY POPPINS KICKS OFF THE 1976 FAMILY FILM FESTIVAL

Walt Disney's spectacular film which has become one of the greatest hits in the history of the motion picture industry will be shown for all Cast members and their families from **January 14 through February 1**.

FREE tickets will be available in Cast Activities on Monday, January 12.

Show dates are:

Wednesday, **January 14** - 8 pm - Disney Story
 Thursday, **January 15** - 8 pm - Disney Story
 Friday, **January 16** - 8 pm Disney Story
 Saturday, **January 17** - 8 pm - Disney Story
 Sunday, **January 18** - 8 pm - Disney Story
 Wednesday, **January 21** - 8 pm - Disney Story
 Thursday, **January 22** - 8 pm - Disney Story
 Friday, **January 23** - 8 pm - Disney Story
 Sunday, **January 25** - 8 pm - Disney Story
 Wednesday, **January 28** - 8 pm - Disney Story
 Thursday, **January 29** - 8 pm - Disney Story
 Friday, **January 30** - 8 pm - Disney Story
 Saturday, **January 31** - 8 pm - Disney Story
 Sunday **February 1** - 3 pm & 8 pm - Pacific Room, Contemporary Resort

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!!

EXCLUSIVE BICENTENNIAL OFFER!

The United States Department of the Treasury through their Mint Bicentennial Coin Program is producing uncirculated sets of the official United States 40% silver Bicentennial coins. Each set contains one of each of three newly-designed Bicentennial coins -- the Eisenhower dollar, Kennedy half-dollar and Washington quarter.

Under congressional legislation, the Mint is producing 15 million sets to offer the American public the opportunity to participate in the Bicentennial through coins. Cast members may order these official mint sets through Cast Activities at a special discount price for \$7 (regular price \$9 per set). There is a limited quantity, order this beautiful momento of our nation's 200th birthday NOW!!

SOCIAL SECURITY TAX INCREASES WITH NEW YEAR

Effective January 1, the maximum taxable wage base for Social Security (FICA) will be \$15,300. This is an increase of \$1,200 over the 1975 maximum base of \$14,100. The tax increase is applicable to the first paycheck in 1976 even if all or part of the pay was earned during 1975.

The increase in the taxable wage base means that in 1976 the maximum tax will be \$895.05 for the wage or salary earner (and a like amount for his employer) as opposed to the maximum of \$824.45 each. This increase of up to \$140.40 per employee (the employee pays half and the employer pays the other half) together

with the increase for the self-employed will affect most workers.

What all of this means to you is that you will have a **slight increase** in your FICA taxes in 1976 and a resulting **decrease** in your take home pay.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

A **Control Clerk** position is available in Data Processing for the graveyard shift. Prior control work experience and exposure to Data Processing is helpful. Also knowledge of office procedures will be beneficial. Interested persons may schedule an interview with our Career Placement and Planning center at ext. 5242.

FORT WILDERNESS RUNDOWN

by: Vern Conner, EYES & EARS area report.

At present there are 712 campsites available in Ft. Wilderness, with plans for expanding to 825 by next summer . . . and eventually reaching 1200. Campsites are \$12.48 per night and this includes free use of WDW transportation. Employees may rent campsites at a **50% discount** during the off-season (Sept. 1 to the week prior to Thanksgiving; the week after Thanksgiving to Dec. 15; and from Jan. 7 to Easter). For those who don't have campers, Ft. Wilderness also rents Airstream trailers. They sleep six people and are scattered throughout the Campgrounds.

Guests from the local area visiting for the day have an admission of \$2. for adults and \$1 for children (ages 3-16), entitling them to basically the same facilities as a Campground guest. Entrance for day visitors is by way of the steam train with no admission charge after 4:30 pm.



Facilities inside Ft. Wilderness include two Trading Posts for groceries, camping supplies and attraction tickets, a dock area for boating, water skiing, a beach for swimming, Pioneer Hall with its restaurant and two dinner shows nightly, several playgrounds, a petting zoo, a campfire-movie program, marshmallow roast activity, and bike, canoe, and pedal boat rentals.

(continued on page 4)

...WALT DISNEY WORLD NEWS ... SPORTS ... DISCOUNTS ... WALT DISNEY WORLD NEWS ... SPECIAL E...

1975... IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR



WDW celebrated its 4th birthday while our family at Disneyland turned 20 years old!



... all previous attendance records were broken



... and were we ever busy!



We more than surpassed our goal, pledging \$180,000 to the United Campaign and pushed Orlando over-the-top for a successful campaign.



Celebrities like Lawrence Welk participated in the Pro-Am . . . part of the 1975 WDW Golf Classic.



'Ops-5 does it again . . . victors in the Canoe Races of America.



It was defeat . . . for the fourth year straight . . . as the Hourlies win the annual Management-Hourly softball game tournament



The Vista Florida Telephone System dedicated its new Toll Center in December . . . the most advanced system in operation in the Continental U.S.



Our backstage areas got a facelift.



Suzy O'Hara traveled over 200,000 miles representing WDW as our 1975 Ambassador.

(continued from page 2)

More development, particularly in the recreational field, is being planned. The Tri-Circle-D Ranch is currently being moved to make room for a major swimming and water recreational facility, scheduled to be completed next May, and when the Ranch reopens in June of next year, it will be greatly expanded. Also a major recreation area is scheduled for fiscal year '77. This will include tennis, shuffleboard, handball, volleyball, and basketball courts, tetherball, a playground and an exercise course, as well as an amphitheatre for the campfire program.

EYES & EARS will carry more on all of these new projects as they are developed. Be sure and watch for them.

MAIN GATE PASS POLICY

The 1976 Main Gate Passes have recently been distributed to all eligible employees. There have been a number of questions regarding the proper use of the pass, so **EYES & EARS** talked with Admissions to get the full details. The following policies apply to every type of Main Gate Pass:

1. Main Gate Passes allow the pass owner and guests use of Walt Disney World **transportation** systems and **admission** to the Magic Kingdom Pass Entrance. All Main Gate Passes have the number of guests allowed entrance **printed on the back of the pass . . . not including the passholder.**
2. Passowners with larger families may have a larger number printed on the back of the pass. He is allowed to bring in this number with this pass.
3. All Main Gate Passes are **not transferrable** and remain the property of Walt Disney World, as stated on the back of the pass.
4. Main Gate Passes are not accepted when a special ticket is the only admission to a special event or private party.
5. Identification must be shown upon signing the pass sheet at the Magic Kingdom Pass Entrance.
6. All Main Gate Passes may only be used **once per day.**
7. The spouse of a passowner may use the pass upon presenting proof of being married to the passowner. The spouse counts as a guest when Mr. and Mrs. are together in the party. Sons and daughters may not use this pass.
8. Disneyland Main Gate Passes are accepted at Walt Disney World and vice versa.

GUEST LETTERS

Our Guest Relations Department received the following letter from a guest and we thought you might enjoy sharing it:

Dear Sir,

A brief letter to say that which is probably not taken the time for too often. Thank you. We returned to Ohio after spending some time in Florida last month, including Walt Disney World. Being somewhat of a cynic, I was very pleasantly surprised to find Walt Disney World an extremely well run, reasonably priced place.

I realize Walt Disney World is first and foremost a business whose sole purpose is to create a profit for the corporation, thus, perhaps the highest compliment I can pay you is that for awhile this cynic forgot that fact and really thought that he was truly in a "Magic Kingdom."

Congratulations are in order to all your staff . . . from those who conceive to those who execute. These people helped make our visit enjoyable.

Thank you for creating a marvelous place of escape for all, especially us grown-ups who need it really more than the kids.

A final thought, why not pursue the placement of Walt Disney's name as a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously. I would consider that this man has done more for peace in the world than all of the supposed statemen of this decade.

William Brainard
North Olmstead, Ohio

John Hench, Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of WED Enterprises, received the following letter recently. He sent it to us and we thought you might enjoy reading it.

Dear Mr. Hench:

Enclosed is a token of gratitude from my family and me for the joy that you and the entire Disney staff have given us by carrying out and maintaining the ideas of Walt Disney.

We wish to thank -

- the animator who painted the white spot on Figaro's back,
- the imagineers who helped Mickey conduct his orchestra,
- the gardeners who were so concerned about the condition of the flowers in one small flower box in front of Pinocchio's Restaurant,
- Snow White and the dwarfs who danced with my children,
- the painter touching up a sign stating "This Ride Requires a D Coupon" who spent thirty minutes just painting the D to get it just right,
- the girl working in a ticket booth who, although her eyes were glazed with exhaustion from serving thousands of guests that day, treated us with the grace we might expect if we were her first customers.

I could continue such a list for many more pages but it would only add more proof of the consistant quality of planning, design, technology, thoughtfulness, and genuine concern for people that is displayed by the entire Disney Family.

We have spent many happy days at both Disney-land and Walt Disney World and on each occasion I felt that we were getting much more than our money's worth.

I hope that EPCOT will soon be a reality. We need such a "star" to guide our free enterprise system in this troubled country.

TOM BENTON M.D.

Dick Nunis received the following letter from one of our cast members and passed it on to us to print:

Dear Dick,

The tunnel under the Theme Park is beautiful! Thank you so much!

As a member of the "original cast" I can remember when it really lacked any charm. What a great help to new employees who are so easily lost.

Thanks, too, for the Patio Snack Bar and Fantasyland Dining Room rehab . . . they are really appreciated.

Barbara Williams
Merchandise Division

'72 VEGA: silver, radio, a/c, 65,000 mi. \$1,250. Call Randy after 6 pm 851-4489 - anytime weekends.

'68 LEMANS, 4-door, good transportation. \$350. Call 295-6290.

BABY ITEMS: Baby bed \$40, walker \$11, play pen \$20 Tyke bike \$5 Call Becky at 851-3811

'70 14½ft. REGAL RUNABOUT AND TRAILER, w/o motor, very good cond. must sell. \$500. Call Rick 293-0968 after 5:30pm or John 277-5829 after 5:30pm.

STEREO RECORD PLAYER, cherry cabinet, plays 33 or 78 stacks or records or can be played manually. Moving--no room so must sell Call Betty or Chet 859-0771.

'16' HOBIE CAT SAILBOAT, yellow and white sail :5333, with green hull. Rigged for racing, supply box, & trailer. Call Jerry 851-7079.

4-PIECE FURNITURE SET, like new, black naugahyde; sofa, love seat, swivel chair and chair. \$375. Call 425-6326.

GARAGE SALE: Jan. 10-11, 2226 Strasbourg Ct. in Rivera Shores off Silver Star Rd., between Mercy Dr. & Pine Hills Rd. Large & small items. 299-8855.

'72 CHEVY LUV ½-TON PICKUP, radio, pwr brakes, step bumper, 36000 mi., excellent cond., 4 speed, 4 cyl. Call 293-0828 after 4 pm.

'73 MONTE CARLO, 25000 mi. gd cond, am/fm radio, vinyl top, priced below wholesale & loan value at \$2950. Must sell! Call 859-6515.

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EYES & EARS

Walt Disney World

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